

COMMERCIAL LOBSTER CATCH REPORT **INSTRUCTIONS**

Before completing the enclosed Commercial Lobster Catch Report, carefully read all of these instructions. If you have any questions concerning the catch report, contact the Division's Statistics Project at 978 282-0308 (Gloucester). If you have questions about your permit, contact the permitting staff at 617-626-1520 (Boston).

All commercial lobstermen permitted by the Division are required, by law, to submit a commercial catch report on or before January 31. A renewal permit will NOT be issued until the catch report detailing the previous year's activities and harvest has been received.

EVEN IF YOU DID NOT FISH UNDER THIS PERMIT OR DO NOT PLAN TO RENEW YOUR PERMIT, YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A CATCH REPORT FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES & HARVEST.

*** SUPPLEMENTAL CATCH REPORTS *** In the case of a permit renewed during the month of December and the person is still fishing, the catch report should be completed through the month of NOVEMBER ONLY. Indicate "STILL FISHING" for the month of December and the Division will send a supplemental catch report for the month of December to be submitted no later than January 31. If you do not receive a supplemental report please contact the Boston Office at 617-626-1520.

Accurate statistics are important to you and the Division. They help us to manage the fishery, guide us in evaluating legislation and assist us in interacting with interstate and federal management agencies concerned with proper use of the resource. It is in your best interests to be as accurate as possible when you fill out your catch report. All information collected by the Division is kept strictly confidential and is only reported in aggregate form.

Fill out all items that apply in the spaces provided. Reports are entered in agency computer systems; those that are incomplete or improperly filled-out may cause a delay in the renewal of your permit. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Be sure that you have SIGNED and DATED the report. Any report lacking information or a signature will be returned to you along with your renewal application and fee.

IDENTIFICATION:

Fill in your DMF ID number, permit number and name as it appears on your permit. The permit number, in most cases, is the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number; the DMF ID number is the 6-digit number (including leading zeros). Also fill in your mailing & email addresses and telephone number; please make sure they are up-to-date.

CATCH STATUS:

If you DID NOT FISH this permit during the previous year, CHECK THE BOX, SIGN YOUR NAME, DATE IT at the bottom, and return it immediately to the Division. You need not submit further information on the catch report.

If you DID FISH this permit during the previous year, complete BOTH SIDES of the catch report as accurately as possible.

GEAR:

Circle the type of gear used. If you used more than one gear type then circle each gear type fished. B & C should be answered only if you were using traps/pots to catch lobsters. Estimate the average value of one trap including warp and buoy for part B. Indicate the type of traps you fished in C; wood, wire or "other", and the percent of each type fished out of the total traps fished. If you used diving gear to catch lobsters, indicate the value of your diving gear in D, and the percent used for catching lobsters as opposed to other fishing activities.

PORT(S) OF LANDING:

If you landed your catch in more than one port, list each port on a separate line and indicate the percentage of your total catch landed in each port.

VESSELS:

This section should be filled-out by the principal vessel user ONLY. If you are fishing on another permitted vessel, you should leave this part blank. If you are the principal user, fill in the vessel name, its length, homeport, estimated value and the percent used for lobstering. If you have more than one vessel which was used for lobstering, power boat or not (including tenders dinghies or row boats), complete the information in the appropriate spaces.

FUEL:

Indicate the gallons of fuel (gas and or diesel) used for catching lobsters. If you were involved with more than one type of commercial fishing on the same vessel, estimate the percentage used only for lobstering.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT:

Fill in the maximum number of people, including yourself, who worked on your vessel to catch lobster. If you fished on another permitted vessel and that vessel is reported on a different report, indicate the number involved in your business only.

DEALERS SOLD TO:

List all dealers sold to, including their MA permit number, estimating the percent of catch sold to each. If you sold your catch retail, include yourself as a dealer.

HARVEST TABLE:

- ♦ **GEAR USED TO HARVEST LOBSTER:** enter the gear type used to harvest lobsters: TRAPS DIVING GEAR TRAWL/DREDGES GILLNET
- ♦ **MAX TRAPS FISHING:** trap fishermen only: list the maximum number of traps fished or were in the water at any one time during the month. Include traps that were not fished but remained in the water.
- ♦ **SET-OVER DAYS:** trap fishermen only: list the average number of days traps were set between hauls during the month. Below is a simple formula for set-over days.

Average Set-Over Day =

$$\frac{\text{Maximum \# Traps in Water} \times \text{\# Days in Month}}{\text{Ave Traps Hauled per Trip} \times \text{\# Trips for Month}}$$

- ♦ **AVERAGE TRAPS HAULED PER TRIP WHEN FISHING:** trap fishermen only: list the average number of traps you hauled per trip. The average can be computed by adding all trap hauls for the month and dividing by the number of trips for that month.
- ♦ **TOTAL TRIPS DURING MONTH WHEN TRAPS HAULED:** trap fishermen only: list the number of trips during each month when traps were hauled to catch lobster.
- ♦ **POUNDS OF LOBSTER AND CRAB HARVESTED:** list ALL pounds harvested under your permit including those that were sold, consumed or used to pay sternmen. Divide pounds of lobster harvested into the two columns, **Sold** and **Not Sold** (includes lobsters that were consumed or given away to family members).
- ♦ **AREA AND PERCENT HARVEST:** refer to the map of reporting areas to list, for each month, the area or areas where your catch was harvested. List each area and the percent harvest from that area separately. **Offshore Lobster Permits may not harvest from areas 1-14.** These are the territorial waters of the Commonwealth. **DO NOT INDICATE AN LMA FOR AREA SELECTIONS.**
- ♦ **IF YOU ARE A TRAWLER/DRAWER, GILLNETTER OR DIVER:** list the pounds harvested and area(s) where harvested only. **Do not complete those columns that are shaded.**

LISTSERV: MARINEFISHERIES' NEW E-MAIL SERVICE

Join MarineFisheries' e-mail service to be notified of any regulatory changes or pertinent information. Send an e-mail (with nothing in the subject or body) to:

join-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us

If you questions about your permit, call the Boston Office at: (617) 626-1520. If you questions about the catch report, call the Gloucester Office at: (978) 282-0308.